



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.

## To them the glory. To us the freedom.

The University of Sheffield war memorial was specially made to commemorate those associated with the university who died during the First World War.

This memorial is a Grade II listed structure and sits in pillars of stone representing a castle with carvings of the Yorkshire rose and University of Sheffield coat of arms. It's original location was in the Edgar Allen Library which is now the Rotunda.

The Latin on the memorial reads 'to them the glory, to us the freedom' – a poignant acknowledgement that memorials include as part of the design feature and significance to those whom we are to remember.

Historically, it is recognised that there is no unifying definition of a war memorial, nationally and globally. War memorials were considered as neglected historical sources because they expressed the creators' attitudes towards war, nationality, and death.

Memorials can be used to improve our understanding of attitudes towards the First World War. This has led to the Imperial War Museum constructing a National Inventory of War Memorials (<https://www.iwm.org.uk/memorials>) of which the university's memorial has been added to.

The university's memorial stands testimony to how First World War memorials began to change to reflect equality in death. For larger public memorials, the dead were added alphabetically, and not in order of rank, as a way to equally honour all as citizens.

## The Memorial as a Shrine



The memorial was unveiled in the Edgar Allen Library by the Marquis of Crewe, the acting Chancellor, and attended by the Bishop of Sheffield. Sheffield Daily Telegraph, 3 July 1926.

Unveiled as part of the university's 21st anniversary on 2nd July 1926, this Gothic style memorial differs from the large-scale public memorials and is therefore referred to as a 'shrine'.

The university memorial commemorates the lives lost in the Sheffield Pals Battalion. The Gothic architecture and carving does not include any religious or figurative symbols like the York & Lancs memorial in Weston Park.

Encased within the memorial is the Book of Remembrance, a roll of honour containing 196 names of fallen soldiers, namely from the Sheffield Pals Battalion. As no names are inscribed on the memorial, the Book of Remembrance provides a way to enshrine the names of all those who were lost. Securely enclosed within the structure, it gives reassurance that those individuals are protected and secured.

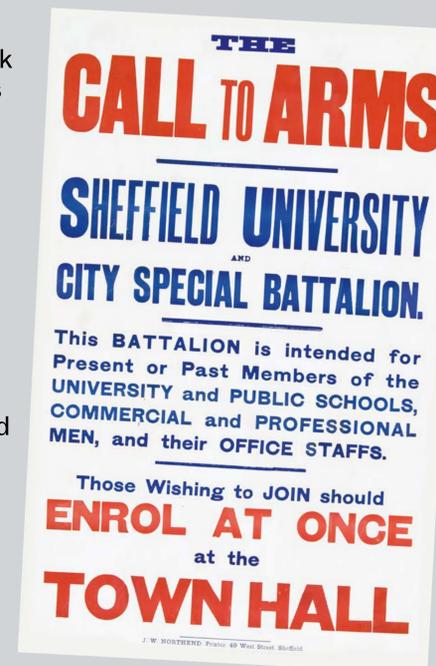
War memorials in the 1920s underwent a transformation as they began to represent sites of commemoration and ritual gatherings for civil religion. These non-religious shrines became popular in order to cater to all audiences who want to remember the lost generations.

## Sheffield Pals Battalion

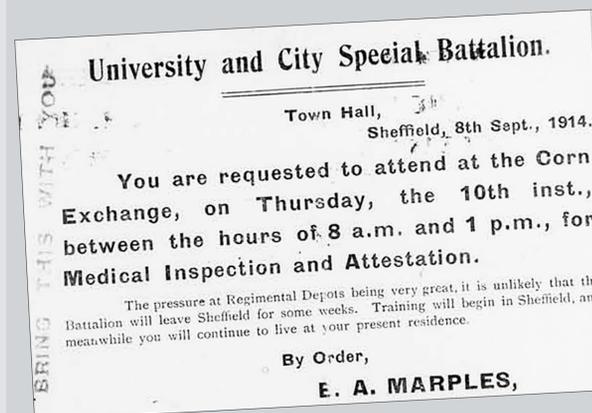
The newly created Pals Battalion was introduced by Lord Derby at the outbreak of the First World War to ensure soldiers that if they signed up, they would fight alongside friends and neighbours. This was to increase recruitment numbers. Over one thousand men joined the Sheffield Pals Battalion within two days of its recognition, with a thousand staff and students eventually encompassing the ranks.

The Sheffield Pals Battalion was created by two students and the University Chancellor, Herbert Fisher. The Sheffield Pals was recognised on 10 September 1914 and later became the 12th Battalion and the York and Lancashire Regiment.

Recruits in this battalion consisted of lawyers, clerks, journalists, university staff and students. 512 members of the Sheffield Pals Battalion sadly lost their lives during the first day of the Battle of the Somme in 1916.



Call to Arms poster, 1914  
University Heritage Collection ID 1157



Calling Card  
Sheffield Local Studies Library: Picture Sheffield S30331

'Two years in the making, ten minutes in the destroying...'

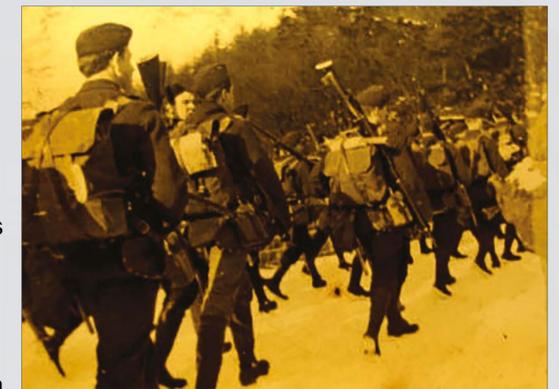
Sheffield Soldier in John Harris' Covenant with Death

## The Lost Generation

The Sheffield Pals Battalion unfortunately suffered a large number of loss of their men. This directs towards the notion of a Lost Generation which addresses the demographic and social consequences of the casualties of the First World War.

Due to the high number of university students and staff that lost their lives, the Lost Generation highlights how men of a higher social status were more likely to lose their lives which stripped the country of a generation of intellectuals.

There were many reasons why men of a higher social status entered the army at a higher rate than men of a lower social status: the social elites often filled the ranks of officers which witnessed higher casualties than lower ranks; the lack of physical fitness of the lower working-class made them unfit and exempt from duty; and the higher social classes could financially afford to serve whilst men in lower social classes had to return to their daily jobs to support their families.



Above and below:  
Photograph of the Sheffield Pals taken by Alpheus Abbot Casey.

